



# EMD

Washington Military Department  
Emergency Management Division



## Unit 3:

# Public Policy in Emergency Management



# The Bottom Line

- Elected and Senior Officials “**set the tone**” and direction in the community for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities
- Leadership **before, during, and after** an incident *will* make a difference!
- Pre-incident relationships are key!





# Roles and Responsibilities

## ***Before an Incident:***

- Clearly define *your* expectations and goals for emergency management & community preparedness
- Understand risks and response capabilities
- Know the plan – and make sure everyone else knows the plan





# Roles and Responsibilities

## ***Before an Incident:***

- Ensure the plan is current and tested (exercised) then updated
- Support efforts to address plan gaps or deficiencies
- Maintain up-to-date lists to ensure continuity of government
- Review emergency ordinances to ensure they are adequate





# Roles and Responsibilities

## ***Before an Incident:***

- Facilitate the creation of a community based mitigation process to implement a hazard mitigation plan
- Advocate for routine government activities which also promote everyday mitigation activities
- Develop the organizational capacity to design and carry out plan
- Create and maintain a community awareness program that promotes family preparedness





# Roles and Responsibilities

## ***During Response to an Incident***

- Consider the need for an emergency proclamation
- Know incident objectives
- Be knowledgeable about overall response
- Provide visible leadership
- Review key messages
- Communicate to the public the nature of event, status of community response, and what individuals should do





# Roles and Responsibilities

## ***During Response to an Incident***

- Make timely & appropriate Policy Decisions (initiate recovery planning at beginning of response)
- Obtain briefings before meeting with the media
- Brief other elected officials
- Maintain a written log of all actions you take – employing a scribe to log for you
- Know what you can and cannot influence
- Trust Your Staff





# Roles and Responsibilities

## ***After an Incident:***

- Continue to provide visible leadership
  - Guide determination of priorities
  - Opportunity to incorporate private sector partners
  - Consumer protection
- Meet with impacted constituents
- Implement your Recovery Plan
- Participate in 'after action' reviews/critiques
- Support identified corrective actions







# Roles and Responsibilities

## *After an Incident:*

- Promote the timely completion of **Preliminary Damage Assessments** by individuals and businesses
- Facilitate the creation of a Recovery Task Force to plan and guide local recovery issues
- Secure funds to see community through recovery
- Ensure the organization and staffing of recovery
  - Encourage volunteerism as necessary





# **Roles and Responsibilities**

**You do have help:**

**Emergency Management  
Authorities**





# Emergency Management Authorities

- RCW 38.52
- RCW 43.06
- WAC 118
- Local Ordinances

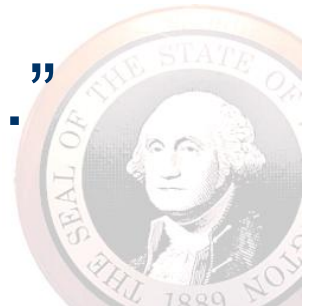


## ***RCW 38.52.070 (Local)***



### **Local Organizations, Establishment, Emergency Powers & Procedures**

- (1) “Each political subdivision is authorized and directed to establish a local organization for emergency management IAW the state comprehensive emergency management plan and program: PROVIDED, that plan is submitted to the state director of emergency management for review...”





## ***RCW 38.52.110***

# **Use of Existing Services & Facilities**

- (1) “directs all levels of government agencies to cooperate with requests for assistance directed toward public services, equipment, facilities, and supplies.”





## ***RCW 43.06.220***

### **State of Emergency – Powers of Governor**

- (1) “The governor after proclaiming a state of emergency and prior to terminating such, may, in the area described by the proclamation issue an order prohibiting...(a) any person being on public streets; (b) any number of persons from assembling or gathering on public streets or parks...”





## **WAC 118-30-060**

### **Emergency Plan**

- (1) Each political subdivision shall maintain a current plan of operations which shall be based on a **hazard analysis** and as a minimum, include a basic document with the following elements...(a) mission or purpose, (b) organization and responsibilities, (c) concept of operations...”





# Local Ordinances

## Spell out who has responsibility for:

- Emergency management operations in normal, day-to-day activities;
- Policy decisions affecting long-term emergency management; and
- Final authority in actual disaster situations.







# Use Hazard Analysis To Establish Policy

## Hazard Analysis Requires:

- Knowledge of Community Hazards, Likelihood of Occurrence, Level of Intensity, and Location in the Community
- Knowledge of the Community – How Hazards could affect Population, Property, Communication, Transportation, and Food Supply
- Typically, Local Emergency Management Team facilitates process and it is part of your Local Hazard Mitigation Plan





# Legal Issues for Public Officials

- Legal Issues Exist
- Numerous RCWs cover liability issues
- Consult your County/City Attorney or State Attorney General for *guidance*





# Roles and Responsibilities Summary

## BEFORE

### ***Legislative/Council***

Funding  
Priority Setting  
Accountability  
Authorities  
Setting Emergency Powers

### ***Executive/Mayor/City Manager***

Support Administration of  
Emergency Management  
Programs

## DURING

### ***Legislative/Council***

Constituent Relations  
Situational Awareness  
Review of Proclamation  
Community Presence

### ***Executive/Mayor/City Manager***

Public Information  
Proclamation  
Prioritization of Resources  
Mutual Aid  
EOC Presence  
Decision-making

## AFTER

### ***Legislative/Council***

Allocation of \$\$  
Reconstruction Costs  
Codes/Compliance  
Revision  
Constituent Relations

### ***Executive/Mayor/City Manager***

Coordination of Recovery  
Interaction with State &  
Federal



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Questions?